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Abel's Journey in China.

Narrative of a Journey in the Interior of China, and of a Voyage to and from that Country, in the Year 1816 and 1817; containing an account of the most interesting Transactions of Lord Amherst's Embassy to the Court of Peking, and observations on the Countries which it visited. By Clarke Abel, F. L. S. London 1818.

From the XLth No. of the Quarterly Review.

We are now in possession of three quartos, besides a goodly octavo, as the literary fruits of Lord Amherst's Embassy to China—how many more are yet hatching in the womb of time we venture not to conjecture; but we have heard that the same literary jobman who, under the guidance of Du Halde and Grozier, drove Æneas Anderson so successfully over the old ground, declares himself still able and willing to start with any other attendant of the embassy, notwithstanding the perils of the midnight procession round the walls of Peking, and the horrors of the granite causeway.

Seriously, we scarcely imagined, that Mr. Abel would have succeeded so well in filling his pages, without a repetition of what we had already learned from Mr. Ellis and Mr. McLeod; and in fact there is a good deal of the same kind of matter as was furnished by these gentlemen, and which can now hardly be considered as 'interesting transactions.' There is something, however, in Mr. Abel's book, which has no place in those of the other two; and there would have been more, but for the author's illness during the most interesting part of the journey through China, and the subsequent shipwreck of the *Alceste*; by the former he lost the opportunity of making his personal observations, and by the latter those collections of natural history which had been made partly by himself, but mostly by the exertions of others. Three hundred packages of seeds had been collected by the unremitting efforts of Mr. Hooper, for the Botanic Garden, which it seems were thrown overboard on leaving the wreck of the *Alceste*, 'to make room for some of the linen of one of the gentlemen of the embassy. A collection of sponges, of madreporas, and of Lew-chew plants, shared the same fate; as did also an extensive geological and botanical collection from the coast of Tartary, and (to complete the catalogue of misfortunes) another collection from the same part of the world, made for Mr. Livingston, Surgeon to the British Factory at Canton. All that remained to Mr. Abel was a small collection of China plants and another of China rocks: from these, says our author, I have derived all the specimens which have enabled me to give the slight geological and botanical notices of China contained in this work.' Under such untoward circumstances, we cannot help thinking what indeed might be anticipated, that Mr. Abel has been more successful in his remarks on every other part of his voyage, than in those relating to his tour through China.

The first place at which the embassy touched was Rio de Janeiro, on the sloping shore of which is suited the town of St. Sebastian, now the capital of the Brazils. Like every other town belonging to the nation which owns this garden of the world, though St. Sebastian possesses every facility for the promotion of neatness and cleanliness, it has not the smallest pretension to either. 'In passing the fish and vegetable market,' says Mr. Abel, 'every sense I possessed became disagreeably impressed, my hearing, by the jargon of the different languages used by the slaves, who were bartering for their masters, and by the old women, who were endeavouring to obtain the highest price for their articles of sale;—a traveller, we think, ought not to be quite so squeamish:—what follows, however, is bad enough—'my sense of sight and smell,' he continues, 'was overpowered by a horrible combination of every sort of filth, which sent forth the most sickening effluvia, that ever exhaled from the corruption of a charnel-house; the very air tasted of putridity, and my clothes felt unctuous to the touch from accidental contamination.' With an abundance of the finest fresh water immediately above the city, and one of the most magnificent harbours in the world at its feet, nothing but the love of dirt could enable the people to sustain the reproach of every foreigner that visits those delightful shores. 'The strongest efforts of the imagination,' says Mr. Abel, 'cannot picture any thing so heavenly as the country, or so disgusting as the town. The first contains many of the noblest works of Nature in their greatest freshness and beauty, on a magnificent scale; the latter exhibits all the disgusting objects which pride, avarice, and filth, can possibly engender.'

On the arrival of the frigate off Anger Point, in the Straits of Sanda Mr. Abel, instead of accompanying the ambassador overland to Batavia, preferred paying a visit to the crater of Gunung Karang in the interior, which however, had nothing very remarkable about it; but it gave him an opportunity of corroborating Sir Thomas Raffles's account of the kind and benevolent disposition of the native Javanees.

'In descending the mountain I was obliged to use great caution, as the path must always be very slippery, in consequence of the heavy dews which fall upon the mountain; the thickness of the woods preventing their evaporation. On our return it was especially so, as it was raining heavily during our descent. I stumbled frequently, and should have fallen more than once, but for the attention of the natives. They followed me closely, uttered a cry at every false step I made, and caught me by the arm whenever I was in danger. It is impossible to do justice to the active and emulous good nature of these mountaineers, who were anxious to excel each other in rendering me service.'

'During my stay on the mountain I received great assistance from them in all my pursuits, although they could not comprehend their object. They were at first much amused at my collecting plants familiar to their daily observation, yet vied with each other in gathering them for me. If I pointed to a flower at a great elevation, several started to obtain it, and he who succeeded evidently triumphed in his fortune. Neither was my presence necessary to excite them to this benevolent activity. Not being able, from the advance of the day, to reach the top of the mountain, I dispatched several natives to collect specimens of rocks from it; and on their return, I was surprised to see them laden with pieces of rock, bundles of plants, and joints of bamboo full of water collected from hollows at the top of the mountains. This they seemed to consider as holy, advising me to wash myself with it as a security against danger. But I should exhaust the patience of my reader were I to mention but a small proportion of the numerous proofs I personally experienced of the innate principles of benevolence that enter into the moral character of the Javanees. Not only in the excursion of which I am now giving the narrative, but during the whole period of my first and second visit in Java, they repeatedly occurred to me. That their intellectual is equal to their moral excellence, may be inferred from the specimens of their poetry which have lately been given to the world. Yet these are the people who have been pursued as beasts of prey, and of whom upwards of four hundred have been barbarously and uselessly slaughtered since the island of Java has been given up by the English. Thank God, I did not hear that any of my countrymen had ever oppressed them, but often heard, and often saw, that the Javanees looked upon the English rather as benefactors than as masters, and it was notorious, that the name of Raffles was almost idolized by them.'—pp. 35, 36.

Having heard, that the Sultan of Bantam was at the point of death, Mr. Abel proceeded to his residence to make a tender of his medical aid. He found him stretched on a small pallet, supported in the arms of an interesting looking woman, and attended by two of his male relatives; he grasped the doctor's hand, shook his head, and declined his assistance, which, says Mr. Abel, 'would have been unavailing, as he died a few hours after I left him.'

'On quitting this house of mourning, I hastened to a grove, where I expected to find many of the great bats of Java, which had been represented to me as vampires, and which in look and ferocity might be supposed to appropriate the fables of those frightful beings. I had often seen, since my arrival in Java, flying in the day-time at a great elevation, an animal making a noise so resembling the cawing of a crow, that I at first mistook it for a species of this bird. I now saw many of its species suspended in large clusters with their heads downward from the branches of trees; and so firmly did they adhere, that although I fired at them, and must have destroyed two or three, they did not fall. By throwing large stones, I obliged them to quit their resting place and to take wing, many of them with young ones clinging to their breasts. They then hovered about, screeched violently, and, flapping their enormous wings, circled close over my head, reminding me of the harpies of antiquity. After some trials I succeeded in shooting two, a male and female: the male being the larger. Nothing could be more hideous than their aspect. Their bodies covered with long hair, resembled that of a fox in colour, smell, and form, but that of a full grown rat in size. They are suspended between wings, similar in texture to those of a common bat, but extending five feet from one extremity to the other. The tail, which is four inches long, is also like that of the fox, and is enclosed by the membrane uniting the hinder extremities. The female, which was only wounded in one of its wings, endeavoured to strike me with the other, screeching violently at the same time, and grinning horribly. When left to itself it exerted its fury on the wounded limb, which it smashed with its teeth.'—p. 43.

It would be useless to employ our pages in repeating from Mr. Abel's book any of the political discussions of the British embassy, at its first intercourse with the Chinese in the gulf of Petcheleo, or at its subsequent landing near the mouth of the Pei-ho; but as objects frequently appear in different lights, according as they are viewed by different persons, or even by the same person in different moods and humours, we shall occas-

tionally noticed the impressions made on Mr. Abel by the appearance of the people and the country, as the embassy glided along the river which was to conduct them to the confines of the capital.

'We found the banks of the river covered on our arrival with a crowd of people assembled to see the embassy; and forming a most motley group. In front were mandarins and soldiers, tawdrily dressed and variously armed: behind, the mob of all classes and complexions, some in white robes, others quite naked, some in immense hats, others with parasols, many bare-headed, and all with long tails. This diversified mass was suddenly thrown into confusion by a party of soldiers, who, flourishing whips on all sides, opened a passage for a number of servants, carrying trays laden with all kinds of provision in profuse abundance. These formed a present from the legate to the ambassador and his train, and were placed in order in the fronts of the boats of the three commissioners. It would be impossible to particularise the different parts of this ostentatious supply. It comprised all sorts of dressed meat, of sheep roasted in halves and quarters, pigs and fowls in abundance, innumerable Chinese made dishes, amongst others, stewed sharks' fins, stags' sinews, birds' nests and sea-slugs, pyramids of cakes and sweetmeats, a large quantity of pickle, and several jars of wine. A part of these formed our dinner: and as it was the first time of partaking of Chinese fare, curiosity induced us to taste the made dishes, but their flavour did not tempt us to do more. The joints of mutton, pigs, and fowls, were so besmeared with a kind of varnish, that they exhibited a perfect metallic polish, and seemed so much more adapted to please the eye than gratify the palate, that we did not attempt to injure the brilliancy of their surface.'—pp. 72, 73.

Mr. Abel had the fortune to pass the first night in this far-famed empire on the bare boards, among myriads of mosquitoes; and found in the morning, that his perambulations were to be confined to a spot of ground about one hundred yards square, guarded on every side by soldiers. This early specimen of suffering and restraint was not calculated to put him in the best possible humour with the 'heavenly empire,' and accordingly we are presented with the following sketch.

'No country in the world can afford, I imagine, fewer objects of interest to any species of traveller, than the banks of the Pei-ho between Ta-koo and Tien-sing. The land is marshy and sterile, the inhabitants are poor and squalid, their habitations mean, dirty, and dilapidated, and the native productions of the soil are few and unattractive. The scenery had only novelty and strangeness to recommend it; but had it possessed the attractions of Arcadia, they would have been polluted by miserable objects of wretched and naked men, tracking our boats and toiling often through a deep mire under a burning sun. These poor fellows were attended by overseers, who kept them to their work, and prevented their desertion, but did not, as far as I could observe, exert their authority with cruelty. Scarcely had our eyes become in some degree familiarised with their appearance, when they were offended by the sight of a dead body frightfully swollen, lying on its back, and floating down the river. Our boatmen passed it without regard. I must confess, that in turning from the contemplation of such objects, I recovered with some difficulty that state of mind which was necessary to an unprejudiced examination of the country through which I was passing.'—pp. 75, 76.

The feast of the Yellow Screen at Tien-sing tended to augment rather than allay the disappointment and dissatisfaction felt on the first landing of the embassy. That curious scene, having been fully described by Mr. Ellis, need not be repeated here. The store of ice, which the party was able to procure at Tien-sing for cooling their wine and fruit, appears to have been the first pleasurable object that presented itself; and it is admitted that 'no people understand better the refreshing qualities of ice, during hot weather, than the Chinese.' Every fruiterer had it in abundance, and every Chinese almost was seen carrying it about in his hands.—The thickness of it, Mr. Abel thinks, 'sufficiently testified the severity of the cold which must prevail in these parts during the winter.'—it rather testifies the knowledge which the Chinese possess of the art of making and filling ice-houses, and of ramming down and breaking the material into small fragments, so as to form one solid mass; the preservation of ice having no reference to its original 'thickness.'

Squalidness and filth continued, we are told, to be the leading characteristics from Tien-sing to Tong-chu. In the latter city, 'mud and stench predominated, and received an increase of offensiveness from the peculiar odours which were thrown off by numerous cook shops that lined our road, aided perhaps by the dead animals, too closely resembling cats and dogs, which hung in their front.' We suspect Mr. Abel to be possessed of peculiarly delicate nerves;—Æneas Anderson bestows great praise on the savoury relishes which he used to procure at the Chinese cook shops; Sir George Staunton too, if we mistake not, speaks favourably of Chinese cookery. Even Van Braam, who was a perfect gourmand, limits his grievance to the scanty supply of his table, complaining of quantity rather than quality, and grumbling that they gave him only the bones to pick. We recollect, too, that the gentlemen of Lord Macartney's embassy were particularly struck with the fine carcases of broad-tailed sheep, that hung in front of the butchers' shops of all the towns and villages in the neighbourhood of the capital. On a *changé tout cela*, it seems, since their time, for the horses were as 'miserable looking animals' as the supposed 'dead dogs and cats.'

'That on which I rode was about thirteen hands and a half high, of a bay colour, having all his bony points extremely prominent. Accustomed to follow *en train*, and of an obstinate temper, he would seldom pass any of his kind; and always chose his own pace, which was something between a trot and an amble. His equipment perfectly harmonised with his personal propensities. Two pieces of board forming the saddle, met at so acute an angle, that his bare spine would have afforded a more pleasant support. Behind and before it had two high projections, on the former of which I occasionally sat, to relieve myself

from the effects of its central portion. A piece of scarlet cloth was indeed thrown over; but as this was continually slipping, it rather increased than remedied the inconveniences arising from the bare boards. A piece of old cord formed the girth, and permitted the saddle to turn, when I endeavoured to mount. The stirrups were suspended by strings, so short, that they scarcely hung beneath the animal's body, occasioning some danger of collision between my knees and nose. The bridle was of no better materials, and had a bit which the animal totally disregarded. A piece of cord attached to the reins served as a whip. Such an outfit would not have excited dissatisfaction, had it been similar to that of equestrians of respectability in the country; but I did not witness an instance of the poorest Chinese being more miserably mounted. Remonstrance was in vain; the Mandarins insisted that no better means of conveyance were to be obtained, and many of the gentlemen preferred any other mode of travelling to that of the carts.'—p. 98.

We do not think it necessary to repeat the miseries of the granite pavement between Tong-chu and Pekin, which have already been described with such feeling and eloquence by Mr. Ellis; suffice it to say, that whether on horseback, on foot, or in a covered cart, (and Mr. Abel tried them all,) this superb causeway is equally denounced as execrable. The party were permitted, however, to enjoy a short respite from the excruciating fatigues of a Chinese 'cart,' when within about five miles of the capital, in a sort of shed, in which were stowed the ambassador, his suite, and some of the horses. Here they remained about an hour; and setting forth again in the dark, in the most scrambling manner that can be imagined, they arrived before the gates of Pekin at midnight—but they were closed against them. Chinese curiosity however was fully awake. 'Thousands of people crowded the road, holding up their small oval lanterns to gain a view of the procession.'

The pleasant airing which their conductors gave them round the walls of Pekin, over deep miry roads, through narrow lanes, and along the brink of deep ditches, in 'a procession' which terminated only with dawn, formed an appropriate introduction to the extraordinary farce that took place at the palace of Yuen-min-yuen, which Mr. Ellis, who had the advantage of being behind the scenes, has so well described. The room into which the representative of the king of England, with the few that attended him, (for the Chinese contrived to drive off the greater part of his suite,) was rudely thrust, was scarcely twelve feet by seven, with holes on every side, furnished with shutters, like the port-holes of a ship, and a sky-light of tattered paper:—in short, it forcibly brought to the recollection of the few who were crammed into it, the exclamation of Van Braam, 'Nous voilà donc, à notre arrivée dans la célèbre résidence impériale, logés dans une espèce d'écurie.'

The disgraceful scene that followed is described pretty nearly in the same terms as those employed by Mr. Ellis, but the rudeness, it seems, went beyond even what the Commissioner thought proper to state. The duke, as he is absurdly styled, 'caught his lordship by the arm, beckoning at the same time to some surrounding Mandarins to assist him. They obeyed the signal, and stepped forward; but before they reached the ambassador, we started up, (says Mr. Abel,) and advanced towards him, when in the act of shaking off his unmannerly assailant. This sudden movement stopped the duke, and alarmed his attendants; the former quitted his hold, and the latter fell back, with countenances full of astonishment.' Lord Amherst behaved with that dignified composure, which all who know him would expect on so trying an occasion, and cautioned his suite on no account to use their weapons in resisting the violence that had been offered to him and that might again recur. But it was not necessary. They were speedily removed to a residence at a little distance, where they hoped for some rest after their long and tiresome journey; but in this also they were disappointed. The emperor had issued his mandate for their immediate departure, and the summons was as speedily brought to them by a most consequential gentleman who, on making his appearance, called out in a loud voice and imperative gesture, 'I am a messenger from the *Xu-mun-ti-tien*, governor of the nine gates of Pekin, the greatest military officer of the empire; the commander of a million of men; he orders the ambassador instantly to quit the limits of his command.' All was now bustle and confusion; and our jaded countrymen were once more doomed to the Chinese cart and the causeway, in travelling along which, says Mr. Abel, 'we felt the sensation of continual dislocation and replacement in every joint of our bodies.'

Mr. Abel of course is unable to give any account of Pekin, having only surrounded its walls twice by night; but he says 'we stepped from our carts to steal a piece of its walls, and had just time to observe, that they were built of a sun-dried brick of a blue colour, resting on a foundation of blocks of granite.' This is a mistake; the walls of Pekin are built of a remarkably hard and well-burnt brick, laid in so skilful and workmanlike a manner as not to be excelled in this or any other country. The bricks and tiles of China, like all their earthenware, are of very superior quality, and burnt with great care in close ovens or furnaces, heated with wood or coal. We know from a gentleman in Lord Macartney's embassy, who particularly examined the walls of Pekin, that the bricks of which they are constructed had a close compact surface capable of taking a polish; they were of a dull leaden bluish colour, and each contained about thrice as much matter as one of the standard size of England; and it is observed by Lord Macartney, that the only piece of brickwork worthy of being compared with that of the garden walls at Yuen-min-yuen, is that of the house of Lord Palmerston, in the south-west corner of Hanover-square—which is unquestionably unrivalled in London.

The gentlemen of Lord Macartney's embassy encountered few or no beggars in the whole of their route through China. Those of Lord Amherst's were beset with them. The opposite characters of the two emperors Kien-lung and Kia-king, as suggested by Mr. Abel, can scarcely be considered as affording sufficient grounds to account for this difference. Lord Macartney's retinue confined themselves to the direct route, and were attended with more pomp and parade of civil and military Mandarins, with their lieters and guards, who might have been instructed to remove all objects of 'deformity and penury' out of the way. Lord Amherst's party, it would seem, frequently ran riot, and rambled to considerable distances from the line of their route.

The country however is certainly not so tranquil and well governed as in the time of Kien-lung. Kia-king, it appears, is a weak and capricious ruler, little acquainted with the affairs of government, or the condition of his people. Mr. Abel may be permitted to speak contemptuously of him, after the rude treatment experienced at his court; but the character which we have received of him from a resident in the capital fully justifies all that he has said. He is, in fact, vain, effeminate, and licentious—giving himself up to every species of sensuality—governed by favourites one day, whom, without reason, he disgraces the next. Song, his chief minister and bottle companion, (for among his other vices he reckons that of drunkenness,) being asked respecting a journey into Tartary, endeavoured to dissuade him from it, hinting that, as happened a few years before, the season of his absence might again be the season of revolt. This displeased the royal ear, and availing himself of an edict published by Kien-lung, which declared any minister guilty of high treason, who should attempt to dissuade his descendants on the throne from visiting the tombs of his ancestors in Tartary, Kia-king decreed Song to have merited death: in consideration, however, of the advice having been solicited by himself, he contented himself with stripping him of his honors and banishing him to Ely in Tartary, whither his son, as a mark of the royal favour, was permitted to accompany him.

We regret, on many accounts, the illness of Mr. Abel: the little which he saw of the peasantry of China, in his botanical excursions, is exceedingly favourable to their character, and we should have been glad of a fuller description of this most important class of people from his hands.

'They afforded, he tells, us a pleasing contrast in their simple manners and civil treatment of strangers, to the cunning designs of the salesmen of Tung-chow, and the brutal importunity of the courtiers of Yuen-ming-yuen. When they have accompanied me along the banks of the river, far in advance of my boat, and have beheld me overcome by fatigue and heat, they have always appeared anxious to relieve my distress. One has hastened to the nearest house for a seat, another has brought me water, and a third has held an umbrella over my head to defend me from the sun, whilst their companions have at some distance formed a circle around me. We were to these people as the inhabitants of another world. Our features, dress, and habits were so opposed to theirs, as to induce them to infer, that our country, in all its natural characters, must equally differ from their own. "Have you a moon, and rain, and rivers in your country?" were their occasional questions. Comprehending no other rational object for the collecting of plants than their useful qualities, and seeing me gather all indiscriminately, they at once supposed that I sought them merely as objects of curiosity and laughed heartily at my eagerness to obtain them. They pitied my ignorance, and endeavored to teach me their relative worth, and were anxious for me to learn the important truth, that from one seed many might be obtained. A young man having shaken some ripe seeds from the capsules of the Sesamum and the Sida, described to me, with much minuteness, that if I took them to my own country, and put them into the ground, they would produce many plants, and I might thus in time obtain the blessing of good rope and oil.'—pp. 130, 131.

We are by no means satisfied, that we have yet obtained a true and impartial portrait of the Chinese. Indeed we are almost sure that we have not. We want to know something more of their domestic habits. In the few novels and dramas which have reached us, we find nothing of that dull uniformity in private life, which the books written by Europeans have been pleased to attribute to them; but, on the contrary, we meet with great variety of character, of dispositions strongly marked, and of eccentricities and whims as much out of the way, and incidents as oddly diversified, as among ourselves, and which could not have been imagined if they had not existed in the common intercourse of society. It can scarcely be doubted, that in one of the most ancient and populous empires on the face of the earth, where literature has always been respected, and where, at a very early period, an exalted system of ethics was promulgated, the rational character would be found, in real life, to have its bright as well its dark side; and the only question is which of the two occupies the larger surface of the picture.

We should always remember that we view the Chinese character only as drawn by foreigners, who, from the nature of the government, have at all times been the objects of suspicion, and who hold a very limited intercourse with the natives. Mr. Abel echoes the old and oft repeated charge against them of knavery; in support of which he quotes the inference of Pauw, that the shop-keepers would never have thought of writing on their sign-boards, 'No cheating here,' if they had not predetermined to cheat all the world. But if this inscription 'Poo An' be common, as Du Halde says it is, it can produce no effect, one way or the other, among themselves; and it could not be intended to cheat foreigners, because foreigners are not allowed to domiciliate themselves in China, nor even, except on special occasions, to enter its territory. 'Poo hau,' therefore, is quite

as harmless as the word 'genuine,' the abuse of which is so common on our sign-boards, that a Chinese would be justified in retorting the observation of Mr. Pauw, and telling his countrymen, that the English shopkeepers would never have thought of writing 'genuine' on every sign, if they were not convinced that all their articles were 'spurious.'

On the subject of infanticide, and the apparent indifference to human life, with which the Chinese have been charged, we did not look for much information from Mr. Abel. The little he procured, however, is against the supposed practice being general or common.

Respecting the validity of those general charges of inhumanity brought against the whole Chinese people, and founded on their reputed practice of infanticide, and their apathy in withholding assistance to their countrymen when in danger, my information is chiefly of a negative kind. It will readily be supposed, that in our almost linear progress through the empire, we were not in the way of obtaining a sufficient number of facts for estimating the different degrees of credibility attached to the statements, according as little on the subject of infanticide as on that of population, respecting the causes and extent of the exposure of children in China.

That the practice exists, admits not of a shadow of doubt; to what extent it exists is not likely ever to be known. The little value that attaches to females throughout the East, leads too frequently, it is to be feared, to their exposure. In all those nations the parent seems to be armed with uncontrolled authority over his children, even to the taking away of life. The Chinese laws, in particular instances, appear to admit this, but the Chinese people deny the practice. That it is but too common, however, at least among the lower classes, may be inferred from the remonstrance of a magistrate of Kiang-nan, published in the Pekin Gazette, praying the Emperor, that the selling and putting away of wives, and the drowning of female infants might be prohibited;—on which Kia-king very shrewdly observes, that 'the existence of male and female is essential to the continuance of the human species;' and concludes, doubtfully, that 'if it be true, that a common practice exists among poor families of drowning their female infants, it is a very shocking and wicked thing, and should be put a stop to, by admonitory and prohibitory edicts.'

There is certainly something in all this, not extremely favorable to the Chinese, and yet they should not be too generally condemned. Unfeeling and unamiable as their character has been represented by all the visitors of Canton, from Lord Anson to the present writer, there are traits of excellence to be found in it. It is but common justice to allow them credit for instances of individual generosity and humanity, as a set-off against the knavery and brutality of which they have been so unceremoniously and so universally accused. Mr. McLeod gave us an instance of a Chinese wanting neither feeling nor gratitude; and we took occasion to supply a still stronger one. Captain Ross, the Commander of the East India Company's ship the *Discovery*, has enabled us, from his own experience to furnish a third. While surveying those dangerous rocks, called the Paracells, off the coast of Cochin-china, he perceived the wreck of a large Chinese junk, and, on approaching nearer, observed on a barren rock, not exceeding fifty fathoms in length, a group of people amounting nearly to a thousand, who had escaped the wreck only to perish by famine. With the utmost difficulty they were taken, by eight or ten at a time, from this desolate spot, on which they had already remained four days; and all landed safe on the opposite coast of Cochin-china.

Some time after this, when Captain Ross was surveying the south-eastern coast of China, near the strait of Formosa, he landed at a small town not far from Amoy; on passing through one of the streets, he was noticed by a young man who ran up to him, threw himself on his knees, and eagerly embraced his legs: it appeared, that he was one of those who had been released from their desperate situation on the rock of the Paracells. He made known his liberator to his towns-people, who immediately crowded round the Captain, loading him with blessings on every side; and nothing that the place afforded was considered as too good for him.

One more, and we have done. *Con-se-qua*, one of the Hong Merchants of Canton, who is still living, had large concerns with the Americans. The master of a ship belonging to that nation, on pretence of inability, had refused to settle the balance of his account with him, and was preparing to leave the river. *Con-se-qua* complained of this conduct in the presence of a Mr. Robinson, chief mate of one of the East India Company's ships, who, knowing, that the American captain had ample means to settle his balance, undertook to procure it for the Hong merchant. He accordingly remonstrated with the American, stating the bad impression which such dishonorable conduct must leave on the minds of the Chinese, and that, for the credit of his country, he ought to settle his accounts before his departure—in short, the account was settled. *Con-se-qua* strongly expressed his feelings of gratitude, and told Mr. Robinson, that in future he would take his investment off his hands whatever it might be, at a certain profit, regardless of the market being overstocked. This went on for a few years, when one day *Con-se-qua* thus addressed Mr. Robinson—"Mr. Robinson, you come here one, two, three year; and all year chief mate—why you no come captain?" Mr. Robinson informed him, that he had not sufficient money to purchase the investment. "What money you want?" asked *Con-se-qua*. "No less," answered Robinson, "than eight thousand pounds." Nothing more was said at the time; but, just as the ships were about to sail, *Con-se-qua* put into the hands of Mr. Robinson, on order on the house of Baring and Co.

(with whom he was connected) to advance on his account the sum of eight thousand pounds; saying, 'Now you come captain, and when you rich you pay me.' Poor Robinson however did not live to avail himself of this noble act of generosity.

Nor ought we to forget, while professing to give an impartial view of this people, that in the unbounded respect and veneration of children for their parents, and the sobriety which prevails generally among all ranks and conditions of men, they probably excel all other nations. But a Chinese is not only of sober but of industrious habits; he is also naturally dexterous and ingenious, and whatever he undertakes he performs with neatness and propriety. The faculties of his mind are clear and acute; his preceptions quick, and would be comprehensive if called into action; but the system of his education and the nature of the institutions under which he lives, constitute him too much of a machine, whose motions are regulated by certain invariable rules. So singularly uniform indeed, are the features, the appearance, and the public manners of this people, that it was well observed by one of the missionaries, 'Parcourez l'empire de la Chine; tout vous semblera fondé dans le même creuset, et façonné par le même moule.'

To this sameness, arising from legislative interference in all that concerns a man's conduct in life, it is owing, that while in most parts of the western world, the human faculties have been either in a state of progressive improvement or deterioration, most of the Oriental nations have remained very nearly stationary. Time would seem to have stood still with the Chinese. We find them neither improved in learning nor in morals, nor in the system of government and legislation, nor one whit more enlightened in religion or in the sciences, that they were three thousand years ago. The cut of their robes, the plan of their houses, the form of their furniture, have not changed in all that time, so much are they under the dominion of ancient custom—and while no inconsiderable portion of the globe has been agitated by the capricious tyranny of fashion, they have had the advantage (if advantage it be) of reposing in peace under that alone.

But as human nature is every where pretty much the same, China would appear to have its male and female *elegantés* as well as other countries. In a Chinese novel, called *Hung-how-Mung*, or *The Red Chamber Dream*, part of which has been translated by Mr. Davis, of whom we have had frequent occasions to speak favourably, two characters are introduced, whose costumes may be amusing to the belles and beaux of Great Britain. The dress of the lady, who is denominated a *La-tze*—(something sharp or pungent)—is thus described: 'On her head her knot of hair was adorned with gold and silk, and eight precious stones pendent. It was fastened with a pin of pearls dropping from five little eagles. An ornament of virgin gold, enlivened with insects, embraced her neck. Around her waist was an upper dress of deep red-coloured silk, on which were embroidered an hundred golden butterflies, fluttering among flowers. Over this was a narrow garment made of the skins of stout-blue mice, and silk of five different colours. Below all, was a petticoat of foreign crape of a green colour, sprinkled with flowers. She had a pair of most bewitching three cornered eyes, and two eye brows curved like the young willow leaves; her person was slender, light and airy.' The gentleman was also covered with butterflies, fluttering among flowers of gold; his beautiful nose was full and round, like the gall-bladder of a quadruped; and he had a face like the moon in the midst of autumn—covered with white paint, and lips tinged with vermilion. From his head to the end of his tail, which dangled to the ankles, hung four strings of precious stones set in gold. His upper tunic was pink spangled with flowers, his trousers and stockings were embroidered, and his shoes were of a deep red colour, with thick white soles. This irresistible youth is said to have ten thousand thoughts of love collected in the corner of his eye.'

Mr. Abel (to whom we now return) had scarcely left Tien-sing when he was seized with a brain fever, which confined him to his bed for several weeks. He had the misfortune therefore of missing the best and most interesting part of the journey, especially that which led up the great river Yang-Tse-Kiang past the ancient capital Nan-King and its celebrated porcelain Pagoda, the appearance of which, though none of the party approached within two miles of it, accorded, Mr. Abel was told, 'with the description given of it by different writers.' The catholic missionaries all speak with admiration of this edifice; but none that we know of, except Père le Compté, has described it; and his account of it is, like every thing else in his book, loose and vague, and little to be relied on. The following curious description of the Temple of Boudh, for such this celebrated Pagoda is, was procured in the city of Nan-King, on the return of the embassy; it is perhaps the first authentic account of it which has reached Europe, and we think our readers will be gratified with a verbal translation of the original, for which we are indebted to the kindness of Sir George Staunton. Lord Amherst is said to be possessed of a model of this extraordinary building, which, Du Halde says, 'is certainly the most solid, remarkable, and magnificent structure in the eastern world.' He should have confined the remark to China, and made an exception of the Great Wall.

'The Dwelling of Security, Tranquillity, and Peace.'

'The representation of the precious glazed Town of the Temple of Gratitude, in the province of Kiang-Nan.'

'This work was commenced at noon, on the fifteenth day of the sixth moon of the tenth year of the Emperor Yong Lo, (a) of the dynasty of Ming, and was completed on the first day of the eighth moon of the sixth year of the Emperor Sien Té, of the same dynasty, being, altogether, a period of nineteen years in building.'

'The sum of money expended, in completing the precious glazed tower, was two millions four hundred and eighty-five thousand four hundred and eighty-four ounces of silver. In the construction of the ornamental globe on the pinnacle of the roof of the tower, forty-eight kin (b) in weight of gold (sixty-four pounds), and one thousand four hundred kin in weight of copper were consumed. The circumference of this globe is thirty-six che (c) or forty-two feet. Each round or story is eighteen che high. In that part of the tower called the Quang, were consumed four thousand eight hundred and seventy kin weight of brass. The iron hoops or rings, on the pinnacle of the roof, are nine in number, and sixty-three che, each, in circumference. The smaller hoops are twenty-four che in circumference—and their total weight is three thousand six hundred kin. (d)

'On different parts of the tower are suspended eighty-one iron bells, each bell weighing twelve kin or sixteen pounds. There are also nine iron chains, each of which weighs one hundred and fifty kin, and is eighty che long. The copper-pan with two mouths to it, on the roof, is estimated to weigh nine hundred kin, and is sixty che in circumference. There is also a celestial plate on the top, weighing four hundred and sixty kin, and twenty che in circumference. In the upper part of the tower are preserved the following articles:—Of night-illuminating pearls, one string; of water repelling pearls, one string; of fire-repelling pearls, one string; of dust-repelling pearls, one string; and over all these is a string of the relics of Foe. Also an ingot of solid gold weighing forty leang (ounces), and one hundred kin weight of tea—of silver one thousand leang weight—of the bright being, two pieces, weighing one hundred kin—of precious stones, one string—of the everlasting physic-money, one thousand strings—of yellow satin, two pieces—of the book hidden in the earth, one copy—of the Book of Omito Foe, one copy; of the book of She-Kia-Foe, one copy; of the book of Tai-Yin-Foe, one copy; all wrapped up together, and preserved in the temple.'

'The tower has eight sides or faces, and its circumference is two hundred and forty che. The nine stories taken together are two hundred and twenty-eight and a half che high. From the highest story to the extreme point of the pinnacle of the roof, are one hundred and twenty one. The lamps within the tower are seven-times-seven in number, in all forty-nine lamp-dishes, and on the outside, there are one hundred and twenty-eight lamp-dishes. Each night they are supplied with fifty kin weight of oil. Their splendour penetrates upwards to the 33d heaven—midway, they shed a lustre over the people, the good and the bad together,—downwards, they illuminate the earth as far as the city of Tse Koo Hien, in the province of Che-Kiang.

'The official title of the head priest of the temple is Chao Sien. His disciples are called Yue. The total number of priests on the establishment is eight hundred and fifty. The family name of the head mason of the building was Yao, his personal name Sien, and his native town Tsing Kiang Foo. The family name of the head carpenter was Hoo, his personal name Chung, and his native province Kiang See.

'The extent of the whole enclosure of the temple is seven hundred and seventy mou (e), and eight-tenths.—To the southward, towards Chin Van San, are two hundred and twenty-six mou.—Eastward to the boundary of Chin Sien Seng, are two hundred and thirty-four mou, and eight-tenths.—In the centre is the grove of Hoo Kin Te.—Westward, as far as the land of She Hoo Hoo, are one hundred and twenty mou.—And northward, to the land of Lien Sien Seng, are one hundred and eighty mou.

'Viewing, therefore, this History of the Glazed Tower, may it not be considered as the work of a Divinity? Who shall perform the like!

'Lately, on the fifteenth day of the fifth moon of the fifth year of Kia-King, at four in the morning, the god of thunder, in his pursuit of a monstrous dragon, (f) followed it into this temple, struck three of the sides of the fabric, and materially damaged the ninth story; but the strength and majesty of the god of the temple are most potent, and the laws of Foe are not subject to change:—the tower, by his influence, was therefore saved from entire destruction. The viceroys and the Fooyen reported the circumstance to his imperial majesty; and on the sixth day of the second moon of the seventh year, the restoration of the damaged parts was commenced; and on the nineteenth day of the fifth moon the repairs were completed.

'On the twenty-ninth day of the sixth moon of the twelfth year of his present majesty, at four in the afternoon, on a sudden there fell a heavy shower of rain, and the god of thunder again rushed forth in front of the tower; and penetrating the roof, pursued the great dragon from the top to the bottom. The glazed porcelain tiles of the sixth story were much damaged, and where the

(a) 1413 of the Christian era.

(b) A kin is one pound and one-third.

(c) A che is about fourteen inches.

(d) This part is obscure, and will be better understood from Le Compté's description, imperfect as it is. 'The top of the edifice is not the least beautiful part of the tower; it is a masonry pillar, that stands upon the floor of the eighth story, and reaches more than thirty feet above the roof, it seems to be wrapt in a large iron hoop, of the same height, in the form of a screw or spiral line, extending several feet from the pillar, so as to appear like a hollow cone, suspended in the air, with apices to let in light. On the top of this pillar is placed a golden ball, of extraordinary magnitude.' Extraordinary indeed! for, if the Chinese accounts to be believed, its dimensions are more than twice, and, of course, its magnitude more than four times that of the ball of St. Paul's cathedral. It would seem to be of copper, and plated with gold. Ed.

(e) A mou is somewhat less than an English acre.

(f) By the personification of the dragon, the forked lightning would seem to be represented; and that of the Deity under the sound of the thunder.

god of thunder issued out at the great gate, several of the boards taken from the wood of the heavenly flower-tree were broken:—Thus the god of the thunder, having finally driven away the monstrous dragon, returned to its place in the Heavens.

The priests of the temple reported the event to the local authorities, and the officer Hsu, submitted the report to his imperial majesty, and awaited the issue of the sums required to defray the charge of the repairs. The gates of the tower have been closed for a year, while the interior has been repairing.

Deny not the presence of a God—a God there is;

He sounds his dread thunder, and all the world trembles.

Mr. Abel was greatly disappointed in not meeting with numerous examples of that system of terrace cultivation for which China has been so highly extolled. 'Like one of the missionaries,' he says, 'I had imagined China to be an immense garden, cultivated with infinite care, and receiving its chief embellishment from mountains cut into terraces, productive in all kinds of vegetable food; and like him, I was disappointed in finding them very frequently barren of the means of subsistence from the base to the summit. His own experience, he tells us, agrees with that of Mr. Barrow, who has observed, that in the whole route from Peking to Canton terrace cultivation occurred on so small a scale as hardly to deserve notice. It is to be hoped, that the venerable Abbe Grozier, who is about to bring out an enlarged edition of his 'General History of China,' will have corrected the exaggerated statements of the Catholic Missionaries on this as well as on most other subjects connected with that country.

On the arrival of the embassy at Canton, they soon discovered, that all the transactions of the Pei-ho and the court of Yuenning-yuen had preceded them; that instructions had reached the viceroy respecting the entertainment of the ambassador, the lecture he was to read to him, and the manner in which he was finally to dismiss him. The ceremony of delivering the Emperor's letter to the Prince Regent, or rather, to the King of England, for the Chinese understand not what a regent is, 'was more imposing (Mr. Abel assures us) on the part of the English than of the Chinese.' It was 'chiefly interesting to us (he adds) as affording the spectacle of a petty tyrant shrinking under the calm dignity of an English nobleman';—the viceroy, whose lowering brow and gloomy visage strongly expressed his character of cunning, and his feeling of mortified pride, and who had endeavoured, on first meeting his excellency, to assume an overbearing port, grew pale, and his eye sunk under the stern and steady gaze of the English ambassador. We did not think that Lord Amherst could assume so formidable a look—at all events, we are inclined to think, that the presence of Captain Maxwell and the recollection of the guns of the Alceste in passing Bocca Tigris, were not without their due share in 'blanking the once bold visage' of the viceroy.

Mr. Abel tells us, that 'the contents of the Emperor's letter to the Prince Regent formed a subject of much speculation with the embassy'; and that 'there was every reason to expect, judging from the imperial edicts which had transpired, that it would give a very false and distorted account of all the transactions of the embassy.' This document had also preceded the ambassador, and was circulated among the missionaries in Macao;—so little difficulty do they find in maintaining a rapid communication between the two extremities of this vast empire, notwithstanding their complaints of the vigilance and jealousy of the Chinese! Of this precious epistle we are happily enabled to furnish our readers with a copy—with some loss, we fear, to the spirit of the original, since it has only reached us through the medium of an Italian translation.

'The supreme Sovereign of the earth, who has received it from heaven and revolving time, issues this imperial mandate to the King of England, with the purport of which let him be most fully acquainted.

'Your country, O King, is situated at an immense distance beyond a vast ocean, yet you send to me, in the sincerity of your heart, and offering of devotedness, and turn with a zealous affection to the transforming influences which emanate from the middle kingdom (China).

'On a former occasion, in the fifty-eighth year of Kien-lung, at a time when the reign of the exalted, the honourable, and the immaculate emperor was approaching towards its close, you sent an ambassador across the seas to the residence.

'At that time, your ambassador, in approaching the throne with veneration and respect, performed the accustomed ceremony without exceeding or falling short of what is required; and duly observed all the forms with proper decorum; and was then enabled to look up, and to receive the favour and affection of the Son of Heaven; to see his majesty's celestial face; to be entertained at a grand banquet; and to have numerous and valuable presents bestowed upon him.

'In this present year you, O King, have thought fit again to send an ambassador to our court, with a written representation, and with orders to present me with the productions of your country on his being introduced to my presence.

'I, the Emperor, having reflected that you, O King, had done so in sincerity of heart, and from feelings of respect and obedience, rejoiced exceedingly at this intelligence; I caused forthwith the former records to be examined; and I ordered the proper number of officers of state to await the arrival of your ambassador, that on the very day of his approach to the palace he might, in all due respect, behold the imperial person, and then be entertained with a grand festival, according to all things, and with exactly the same ceremonies which were observed in the preceding reign.

'Your ambassador first began to open his communications at Tientsing. I appointed great officers of state to be there to give to him an imperial feast and entertainment. When, behold! instead of your ambassador returning thanks for this feast, he refused to pay obedience to the prescribed ceremonies,

'I, the Emperor, in the affair of an inferior officer of state arriving from a remote country, did not deem forms and ceremonies of any great importance; it was an affair in which some indulgence and a compassionate forbearance might be shewn to the individual; and I therefore made a special order for all my great officers of state to use gentleness and accommodating behaviour towards your ambassador; and to inform him on his arrival at Peking, that in the fifty-eighth year of Kien-lung, your ambassador, in performing the usual ceremony, always fell upon his knees, and bowed his head to the ground according to the established forms; how, indeed, on such an occasion, could any change be allowed?

'Your ambassador then told my great officers, face to face, that when the proper time came he would comply with the ceremonies, and would perform the kneeling and prostration, and bowing of the head to the ground; and that no exceeding or falling short of the established forms should occur.

'Accordingly, my great officers, in conformity to, and in reliance on, this declaration, reported the affair to me, and I sent down my pleasure, that on the 7th day of the 7th moon your ambassador should be ordered to appear before the imperial person; that on the 8th in the great hall of light and splendour, an entertainment should be conferred, and gifts bestowed; and again, that in the gardens of perpetual pleasure, a feast should be prepared; that on the 9th he should have his audience of leave that on the same day it should be permitted him to ramble among the hills of ten thousand ages; that on the 11th, at the gate of perfect concord, gifts should again be conferred, after which he should repair to the board of ceremonies and there again be feasted; and that on the 12th he should be finally dispatched, and ordered to proceed on his journey. The day fixed for performing the ceremony, and the precise form to be observed, were previously communicated to your ambassador by my great officers of state.

'On the 7th, the day appointed for your ambassador to approach and behold the imperial person, he accordingly arrived at the palace, and I, the Emperor, was just about to enter the great hall of audience.

'Your ambassador, all on a sudden, asserted, that he was so exceedingly ill, that he could not stir a step: I thought it not impossible, and therefore ordered the two assistant ambassadors to enter the hall and appear before me; but both the assistant ambassadors also asserted, that they too were ill. This certainly was an instance of rudeness which had never been exceeded. I did not, however, inflict severe chastisement; but I ordered them to be sent off the same day, on their return to their own country. As your ambassador was thus prevented from beholding the imperial presence, it was not expedient, that he should send in the written representation from you, O King. It is, therefore, sent back in the same state it came, by your ambassador,

'We have considered, however, that you, O King, from the immense distance of many times ten thousand lee, respectfully caused a written representation to be presented to me, and duly offered presents; that your ambassador's inability to communicate, on your behalf, with profound reverence and sincere devotion, is his own fault; and that the disposition of profound respect and due obedience on your part, O King, are visibly apparent—

'I therefore thought proper to take from among the articles of tribute, only a few maps, some prints of views and portraits; but I highly applaud your feelings of sincere devotedness for me, just the same as if I had received the whole. In return I ordered to be given to you, O King, a *Jao-ee*, (emblem of prosperity,) a string of imperial beads, two large silk purses, and eight small ones, as a proof of our tender and indulgent conduct in this affair.

'Your country is too remotely distant from the central and flourishing empire; so that to send an ambassador such a distance over the waves of the sea is not a light affair. Besides, your ambassador, it would seem, does not understand how to practise the rites and ceremonies of the central empire. The subject indeed involves a severe labour of the lips and the tongue, which is by no means pleasant or easy to bear.

'The celestial empire sets very little value on things that are brought from a distance. Nor does it consider as rare and precious pearls, the productions of your country, however curious and ingenious they may be thought.

'That you, O King, may preserve your people in peace, and be careful in giving strength to the boundary lines of your territories, that no separation of those parts which are distant from that which is near at home may take place,* is what I, the Emperor, sincerely and strongly recommend.

'Finally, there will be no occasion hereafter for you to send an ambassador from so great a distance, and to give him the trouble of passing over mountains and crossing the ocean. If you do but pour out the heart in dutiful obedience, it is by no means necessary, at any stated time, to come to the celestial presence, ere it be pronounced, that you turn towards the transforming influences which emanate from this empire.

'This imperial mandate is now issued that you may for ever obey it: Kia-King—21st year, 7th moon, 20th day.—(Sept. 11th 1816.)

From this imperial epistle two things are sufficiently evident—1. that the 'Supreme Sovereign of the earth' has as little regard for truth as his officers of state have; and 2. that he wishes to decline any further diplomatic intercourse with us. We learn however that the officers of Canton are more than usually civil and attentive to our resident countrymen; but at the same time busily engaged in building forts on every accessible part of the coast from the Bocca Tigris to the Pei ho, his Imperial Majesty's ministers being under great apprehension, that their treatment of Lord Amherst may be yet visited upon them by a less pacific mission than the last.

We have little more to say of Mr. Abel. While on the spot, he very laudably exerted himself to procure some information respect-

* This seems to be a delicate allusion to our Indian empire.

ing the culture and preparation of tea: he has not been able, however, to add much to that which was already known.

'I could gain (he says) no information in China inducing me to believe that the process there used in manufacturing the leaf, differs materially from that employed in Rio Janeiro, and which appears to be nearly the same as that of Japan, described by Kaempfer. From persons perfectly conversant with the Chinese method, I learnt, that either of the two plants will afford the black or green tea of the shops; but that the broad, thin-leaved plant is preferred for making the green tea. As the colour and quality of the tea does not then depend upon the difference of species, it must arise from some peculiarity in the mode of manufacturing them. Drying the leaves of the green tea in vessels of copper has been supposed, but apparently without foundation, to account for the difference in colour. Without going into the supposition, that any thing extraneous or deleterious is used, both difference of colour and quality may perhaps be explained, by considering one of the known circumstances attending its preparation; namely, the due management of the heat used in drying the plant. There can be little doubt, that a leaf dried at a low heat will retain more of its original colour and more of its peculiar qualities than one that has suffered a high temperature. Supposing, therefore, the leaves of the same species or variety of the tea plant to have undergone such different degrees of heat in their preparation, their peculiar properties would be expected to occur of greatest strength in those of the greenest colour; or in those to which both Chinese and Europeans attribute the most powerful properties. I may here add, that by far the strongest tea which I tasted in China, called "Yu-tien," and used on occasions of ceremony, scarcely coloured the water. On examining it with a view to ascertain the form of the leaves, I found it to consist of the scarcely expanded buds of the plant.'—pp. 292, 293.

We believe, that Mr. Abel was correctly informed, that either of the two plants, the broad and narrow-leaved, will make either the black or the green tea of the shops: and that the colour and quality of the tea do not depend on the difference of species, but on the due management of the heat used in drying the plant. The black tea, for instance, having undergone a high degree of roasting, is deprived of more of the peculiar juices of the plant than the green, which, in the process of preparation, is submitted to a much less degree of heat. Mr. Reeves, the deputy tea-taster at Canton, an ingenious and inquisitive gentleman, discovered that the Chinese had a practice of communicating a finer bloom to dull green teas, by sprinkling a little indigo, mixed with powder gypsum, while stirring the leaf about in the heated iron pan; but this process was only used in the dull faded teas, and the quantity of the materials was too trifling to be in any way injurious.

It is scarcely worth while to discuss the question, 'whether the tea plant will thrive in any other country than China,' because there can be very little doubt, that it will thrive in any climate where the myrtle grows; in fact, it will bear the winter of England in certain situations. In China the plant is to be met with from Peking to Canton, and we may therefore conclude, that it is by no means a delicate shrub; still we cannot agree with Mr. Abel in thinking, that 'the Cape of Good Hope would seem to be the most eligible geographical situation for its culture';—and we are quite sure, that he could not have mentioned a situation less adapted for it in an economical point of view. The tea-tree can only be cultivated and prepared for use in a country where the population is exceedingly abundant and labour exceedingly cheap. At the Cape, where the hire of a common day-labourer is from two to three dollars, a pound of tea could not be raised for a pound sterling; in China, where the wages of labour are little more than three pence a day, the same quantity may be brought to market for about half a crown. Mr. Abel may, therefore, be assured, that we shall never 'derive the tea from any of our own dependencies,' nor 'cease to be indebted to China for an article that enters so essentially into the comforts of all classes of his countrymen.'

On leaving China, Lord Amherst availed himself of the opportunity of paying a cursory visit to Manila. Nothing seems to have struck Mr. Abel, while there, so much as the general habit of smoking, and the immense size of the cigars which the ladies carried in their mouths. When (says he) these enormous tubes were in full play, they poured forth such volumes of smoke, that 'they might have been taken for chimneys to machines rendered locomotive by the powers of steam.' What follows, though carelessly told, is curious.

'The manufacture of these cigars affords employment to a great number of native women, and exhibits to the stranger an interesting example of local customs. It is carried on in a spacious gallery of a square form. Upwards of two thousand females of all ages are seated at low tables, at which they make cigars by rolling the leaves of the tobacco plant on each other,' (not on the ladies, we hope.) 'The most scrupulous precaution is taken to prevent their smuggling it in any form. Superintendents walk round the tables and collect the cigars as they are made, and examine the persons of the workers at the close of their labour. This process, for an account of which I am indebted to Captain Basil Hall, who witnessed it, is rather singular. Thirty women, for the most part elderly, and thought particularly trust-worthy, seat themselves, excepting one, round a circular landing-place without the entrance to the gallery. One only stands at the door of the gallery with a rattan in her hand, and allows thirty girls to enter, counting them off as they come in. When the thirty have passed, they go up to their respective examiners, and having freed their long black hair, hold it in their hands at arm's length; they then shake their handkerchiefs and loosen the other parts of their dress, and suffer the examiners to pass their hands over their bodies to ascertain if any tobacco be concealed close to their persons. In this manner successive parties are searched, till all the girls have undergone the examination. The examiners then rise, and in the same way examine each other.'—pp. 239, 240.

Our travellers formed a party up the river Passig to Los Bagnos, but nothing very remarkable appears to have occurred in this excursion. We must therefore content ourselves with an extract from Mr. Abel's account of a visit which they made to a small convent in a state of decay.

'It was inhabited by one of the native priests, and one or two priests, and one or two females of rather doubtful relation to the worthy father. Having passed through a large lumber-room and up a ladder, we entered a spacious apartment furnished with a large table and a few old chairs, and communicating at one end with the chapel, and at the other with the dormitory of the establishment. From the latter came forth, on our entrance, the clergyman, in person and dress so grotesque, as to tax our risibility very severely in avoiding to offend him by our mirth. Imagine a figure little more than five feet high, having a large head with black hair, projecting forehead with a wart in the centre that looked like the budding of a horn, pig's eyes, flat nose, expanded nostrils, wide mouth and thick lips, dressed in an old-fashioned suit of black cloth, without stockings, and his shirt hanging below his knees, rushing out wild with astonishment, and only answering with grins the questions put to him. When the excess of surprise was passed, he walked successively round each of the party, viewing him narrowly from head to foot, but at length was motioning us to be seated, when he found fresh occasion for astonishment.

'Mr. Griffith, the chaplain to the embassy, had entered the room with a double-barrelled gun in his hand, and was now introduced as a brother clergyman. A protestant clergyman was, no doubt, in himself an object of great curiosity to one brought up in the extreme of bigotry, but a clergyman with a double-barrelled gun seemed to disturb all his notions of ecclesiastical propriety.' (Is Mr. Abel surprised at this?) 'He immediately went up to Griffith and examined him with great deliberation, walked round him again and again, and did not recover himself till repeated requests for refreshment induced him to depart. He soon re-appeared with shoes and buckles, and his shirt properly adjusted, and calling loudly about him, brought out one of his female associates, a very striking contrast to himself. With some of his peculiarities of physiognomy, she was tall, thin, and withered, decorated with crucifixes and other ornaments, and might have illustrated Smollet's description of the Indian wife of Lismahago. She had more self-possession than her friend, and speedily supplied us with some delicious chocolate, the famed produce and preparation of the island.'—pp. 246, 247.

We have now a long account of the shipwreck of the *Alceste*: the story had already been told with so much spirit and feeling by Mr. M'Leod, that we think our author acted rather injudiciously in dwelling upon it at such length. The notice respecting Java too, after the very ample account which has been given of that magnificent island by the late Governor Raffles, might as well have been omitted; together with the geological discussion on the appearances of the peninsula of the Cape, especially as they have been described more fully and more scientifically by Captain Hall, in the *Philosophical Transactions* of Edinburgh.

On anchoring at St. Helena, Lord Amherst paid a visit to Buonaparte, who, having previous notice of his intention, and being furnished with a catalogue raisonné of his suite, was prepared to say something *apropos* to each individual. At that time he was at the point of dying, as he has been ever since, of an incipient hepatitis;—but, says Mr. Abel,

'Buonaparte's person had nothing of that morbid fulness which I had been led to look for. On the contrary, I scarcely recollect to have seen a form more expressive of strength and even of vigour. It is true, that he was very large, considering his height, which is about five feet seven inches; but his largeness had nothing of unwieldiness. The fine proportion of his limbs, which has been often noticed, was still preserved. His legs although very muscular, had the exactest symmetry. His whole form, indeed, was so closely knit, that firmness might be said to be its striking characteristic. His standing posture had a remarkable statue-like fixedness about it, which seemed scarcely to belong to the graceful ease of his step. The most remarkable character of his countenance was, to me, its variability. Buonaparte has the habit of earnestly gazing for a few seconds upon the person whom he was about to address; and whilst thus occupied holds his features in perfect repose.

'The character of his countenance in this state, especially when viewed in profile, might be called settled design. But the instant that he enters into conversation his features express any force or kind of emotion with suddenness and ease. His eye, especially, seems not only to alter its expression, but its colour. I am sure, had I only noticed it while the muscles of the face, and particularly of the forehead, were in play, I should have called it a very dark eye; on the contrary, when at rest, I had remarked its light colour and peculiar glary lustre. Nothing indeed, could better prove its changeable character than the difference of opinion which occurred amongst us respecting its colour. Although each person of the embassy naturally fixed his attention on Napoleon's countenance, all did not agree on the colour of his eyes.

'There was nothing in the appearance of Buonaparte which led us to think that his health had at all suffered from his captivity. On the contrary, his repletion seemed to be the consequence of active nourishment. His form had all that tone, and his movement all that elasticity, which indicate and spring from powerful health. Indeed, whatever sympathy we felt for the situation of any of the prisoners received no increase from any consideration for their bodily sufferings: they were all in excellent plight.'—p. 316, 317.

The volume concludes with an Appendix of various papers on subjects of natural history, chiefly plants of China; and the same official documents which have already been printed by Mr. Ellis. Making due allowance for all the disadvantages against which Mr. Abel has had to contend, we cannot but think, that he has produced a very respectable work; it is rather his misfortune than his fault, that his labours have been anticipated, and thus deprived of that charm of novelty which could alone recommend them to the general reader.

Public Notice.

The Most Noble the Governor General having condescended to signify his pleasure to COMMODORE HAYES, Chairman of the Meeting of the Inhabitants of Calcutta, held at the Town Hall, on the 22nd of September last, that he would receive their Committee, with their Petition, on Saturday, the 13th instant, at 10 o'clock; in pursuance of such Notice, the Chairman, this morning, accompanied by the Committee, had the honor to attend at the Government House, and to offer the following Address to his Lordships:—

My Lord,

Agreeably to the wishes of a numerous Meeting of the Inhabitants of Calcutta, assembled at the Town Hall on the 22d of September last, under the sanction of your Lordship's Government, we now take the liberty to present their humble Petition, praying for redress against certain grievances, which they hope to acquire from your Lordship's wondrous regard for Public Justice.

My Lord,—We disclaim hostility towards any party, as our sole object is the amelioration of the condition of our more unfortunate and helpless fellow-creatures, which object we hope to attain thro' your Lordship's impartial consideration.

My Lord,—We take this opportunity of personally expressing our unfeigned respect and attachment for your Lordship's person and Government, and in thus submitting our humble Appeal on behalf of the Public, we have before us every rational ground of hope, as our dependence is placed upon the just decision of one of the greatest and best men of the age.

After which, the Chairman presented the Petition to His Lordship, who received it most graciously, and stated, that it should be laid before the Council for consideration, without delay.

November 13, 1819.

JOHN HAYES, Chairman.

Junius.

1.—*Junius unmasked. A well known and most eminent Literary Character. 8vo. pp. 48.* 2.—*Junius with his vizor up! or the real Author of the Letters published under that signature now for the first time unveiled and revealed to the world, in two Letters to my Cousin in the country. From Oedipus Oronoko, Tobaccoist and Snuff Seller. 8vo. pp. 54.—From the New Monthly Magazine for June 1819.*

There are some questions of no real import to mankind, but which gather interest by time, through the insatiable spirit of idle speculators who delight in busying themselves about trifles, when those trifles wear an enigmatic appearance. Such is the problem respecting the real author of Junius's Letters, a problem that seems calculated to exercise the conjectures of literary dreamers for years to come. Among the solemn visionaries whose wits have lately run a woolgathering upon the never ending pursuit, we hardly know one who has made a more ridiculous business of it, than the author of the first of these pamphlets; the whole drift of which is to shew that, perhaps, Junius was no less a personage than—Gibbon the historian. The purchasers of the tract however, may console themselves for their disappointment in the purchase of it, by having a neat portrait of Gibbon, which is inserted at the top of the title page like a sign to a village alehouse. But what comes next? A truly laughable farce, after an exceeding dull comedy. "Junius with his Vizor up" is one of the happiest pieces of dry humour, that we ever had the pleasure of perusing, and the composition of it would have credited the genius of Rabelais, or Swift. In truth we do not recollect to have met with any thing like it, except the *Battle of Books*, and in some respects this *jeu d'esprit* is far more witty than that celebrated performance, the ill nature of which detracts much from its general excellence. After a very discursive ramble, through brake and through briar, but every where keeping up the reader's spirits, master Oronoko lets out the mighty secret, that Junius, yes, the redoubtable Junius, who made ministers tremble and shook the throne, was, (who would have thought it?) no less a personage, than the identical Dicky Gossip, or our old friend of facetious memory, Snett the Comedian!

By way of specimen we shall extract a singular anecdote of two very extraordinary characters, one of whom is nearly connected with the history of Junius.

"Mr. Tooke told us, that the late Professor Porson had used to be a frequent visitor at Wimbledon. "But for some few years last past," said he, "I have had no intercourse with him. The last visit he paid me was a most extraordinary one. It was a dinner party; and, surrounded by my friends, I sat at the head of the table. Porson was amongst the number; and was, as usual, very chatty, pleasant, and good-humored, until a certain period of the evening, when he committed the most abominable outrage that hospitality ever felt. He had shewn no soreness or displeasure whatever at the topics in conversation; when, impelled by some motive I could never explain, he on a sudden rose from his seat, and holding his glass in his hand, addressed me in these words,—"I will give you, Sir, in a bumper toast, the health of the most detestable character in the whole world—John Horne Tooke!" At this time he was flushed with wine,

though his senses were by no means overset by it. My friends, and myself expostulated with him on the indecency of his behaviour with all possible good temper and complacency; but in vain. He pursued a strain of the most vulgar abuse and invective against my principles and conduct in political life. I teased him a little by my rapier in reply,—but kept myself quite cool in temper, and steadily on my guard. He still went on adding grossness to grossness, and scurrility to scurrility. I then went round to the chair in which he was sitting, and desired him to feel the muscles of my right arm. He felt them: I then drew up my leg, and desired him to feel and discover if he could, whether that had any muscular energy. He did so. "Now, Sir," said I, "you find, that I can both strike and kick; and if you don't hold your tongue, I will first knock you down, and afterwards kick you out of my house." This menace silenced him: but he still kept his seat, drank a great deal more wine, became very drunk, and was finally packed up late at night in a post chaise, and driven home to his lodgings in town.—From that time to this I have never seen him."

Burns's Mary.

Of this first love of the poet, we are indebted to Mr. Cromek for a brief, but very striking account, from the pen of the poet himself. In a note on an early song inscribed to his mistress, he had recorded in a manuscript book—

"My highland lassie was a warm-hearted, charming young creature as ever blessed a man with generous love. After a pretty long tract of the most ardent reciprocal attachment, we met by appointment, on the second Sunday of May, in a sequestered spot, by the Banks of Ayr, where we spent the day in taking a farewell, before she should embark for the West-Highlands, to arrange matters among her friends, for our projective change of life. At the close of autumn following, she crossed the sea to meet me at Greenock; where she had scarce landed when she was seized with a malignant fever, which hurried my dear girl to the grave in a few days—before I could even hear of her illness."

Mr. Cromek has added, in a note, the following interesting particulars; though without specifying the authority upon which he details them.

"This adieu was performed with all those simple and striking ceremonial which rustic sentiment has devised to prolong tender emotions and to inspire awe. The lovers stood on each side of a small purling brook; they layed their hands in its limpid stream, and holding a bible between them, pronounced their vows to be faithful to each other. They parted—never to meet again!"

The anniversary of *Mary Campbell's* death (for that was her name,) awakening in the sensitive mind of Burns the most lively emotion, he retired from his family, then residing on the farm of Ellisland, and wandered, solitary, on the banks of the Nith, and about the farm yard, in the extremest agitation of mind, nearly the whole of the night: His agitation was so great, that he threw himself on the side of a corn stack, and there conceived his sublime and tender elegy—his address to *Mary in Heaven*.

The poem itself is as follows.—

Thou lingering star, with less'ning ray,
That loves to greet the early morn,
Again thou usher'st in the day,
My Mary from my soul was torn.
O Mary! dear departed shade!
Where is thy place of blissful rest?
See'st thou thy lover lowly laid?
Hear'st thou the groans that rend his breast?
That sacred hour can I forget,
Can I forget the hallowed grove,
Where by the winding Ayr we met,
To live one day of parting love!
Eternity will not efface
Those records dear of transports past;
Thy image at our last embrace;
Ah! little thought we, 'twas our last!
Ayr gurgling kiss'd his pebbled shore,
O'erhung with wild woods, thickening green;
The fragrant birch, and hawthorn hoar,
Twin'd amorous round the raptur'd scene.
The flowers sprang wanton to be prest,
The birds sang love on every spray,
Till too, too soon, the glowing west
Proclaim'd the speed of winged day.
Still o'er these scenes my mem'ry wakes,
And fondly broods with miser care!
Time but th' impression stronger makes,
As streams their channels deeper wear.
My Mary! dear departed shade!
Where is thy place of blissful rest?
See'st thou thy lover lowly laid?
Hear'st thou the groans that rend his breast?

Original and Selected.

The following Lines, from the pen of THOMAS MOORE, Esq. are engraved on the Monument erected to the Memory of his late Friend Joseph Atkinson, Esq. of Dublin.

If ever lot was prosperously cast,
If ever life was like the lengthened flow
Of some sweet music,—sweetness to the last,—
'Twas his, who, mourn'd by many, sleeps below.
The sunny temper,—bright where all is strife,—
The simple heart that mocks at worldly wiles,
Light wit that plays along the calm of life,
And stirs its languid surface into smiles;—
Pure charity that comes not in a shower,
Sudden, and loud, oppressing what it feeds;
But like the dew, with gradual, silent power,
Felt in the bloom it leaves along the meads;
The happy grateful spirit that improves,
And brightens every gift by Fortune given;
That, wander where it will, with those it loves,
Makes every place a home, and home a heaven;—
All these were his.—Oh! thou who read'st this stone,
When for thyself,—thy children,—to the sky
Thou humbly prayest, ask this boon alone,
That ye like him may live—like him may die!

A FAREWELL TO MY LYRE,

Farewell, sweet companion in sorrow and pleasure,
From thy numbers, awhile. Fate has doomed me to part;
And I feel like the miser deprived of his treasure,—
The all that to life could attach his fond heart!—
For the world has entwined a dark wreath for my brow;
I must join the vain crowd in its frenzied career;—
And the thoughts that have softened—and sadden me now—
Must, too soon, be exchanged for sensations less dear.
Tho' no sunshine of Fame light the gloom of thy slumbers,—
Tho' thy master regret thy wild music alone,—
When—his penance complete—he returns to thy numbers,
Hope whispers he'll find thee ennobled in tone.
And should our weak lays but create in the breast
Where sincerity glows, a kind wish or a thought,
Then thy tenderest chords have not vainly been prest,
Nor the guerdon denied, I so earnestly sought.

Boulogne, 1819.

ARION.

A MOTHER'S LOVE.

A Mother's Love—how sweet the name!
What is a Mother's love?
—A noble, pure, and tender flame,
Enkindled from above,
To bless a heart of earthly mould;
The warmest love that can grow cold;
This is a Mother's love.
To bring a helpless babe to light;
Then while it lies forlorn,
To gaze upon that dearest sight,
And feel herself new-born,
In its existence lose her own,
And live and breathe in it alone;
This is a Mother's love.
Its weakness in her arms to bear;
To cherish on her breast,
Feed it from love's own fountain there,
And lull it there to rest;
Then while it slumbers watch its breath,
As if to guard from instant death;
This is a Mother's love.
To mark its growth from day to day,
Its opening charms admire,
Catch from its eye the earliest ray
Of intellectual fire;
To smile and listen while it talks;
And fend a finger when it walks;
This is a Mother's love.

LINES ADDRESSED TO A REAL CHARACTER.

Gentle, manly, mild and brave,
With graceful form and vernal cheek;
Bold as Chief in danger's hour,
Soft as woman in sufferings meek!
The ireful clouds of stormy life
Have o'er thee oft their shroudings drawn;
But thou wert a bright and peaceful star,
Sparkling thro' all,—and sailing on!
Thou art a beautiful vision, seen
Half thro' the mist and half by the moon;—
But the mist is gathering fast and foul,
And the lovelier light is fading soon.
Thou art a flower, on whose soft cup
The shower of grief beats hard and chill;—
But, thro' the dimness of its dew,
The tints of Heaven are gleaming still.
There is a smile in thy soft blue eye
Whose light seems borrowed from a tear;
And in its orb both joy and grief
Seem ever mingled,—or ever near.
And joy so meek is akin to grief,—
And grief so chastened half is bliss;
And the cloudless light of a sun-like eye
Never boasted a bleaded charm like this.
There's music in thy very sigh
To chide the grief it half beguiles;
And the twilight shade of thy pensive brow
Is sweeter to me than a noon of smiles.
Thy fine toned heart,—like the harp of the winds,—
Answers in sweetness each breeze that sings;
And the blast of grief—or the breath of joy,
Draws nothing but music from its strings.
The Bird that skimmed the shoreless deep
Saw but one Ark where her rest might be;
And the heart that has roamed thro' a desert world
Hath never met aught in that world like thee!
My spirit may soar to the regions of light,
And rest in the isles of some happy sea;
But where in the brightest of worlds shall she meet
Another spirit as pure as thee.

Z.

A FAREWELL.

Maid of my heart—a long farewell!
The bark is launched, the billows swell,
The vernal gales are blowing free,
To bear me far from love and thee!
I hate Ambition's haughty name,
The heartless pride of Wealth and Fame;
Yet now I haste thro' Ocean's roar
To woo them on a distant shore.
Can pain or peril bring relief
To him who bears a darker grief?
Can absence calm this feverish thrill?—
Ah, no! for thou wilt haunt me still!
Thy artless grace,—thy open truth,—
Thy Form, that breathes of love and youth;—
Thy voice, by Nature framed to suit
The tones of Love's enchanted lute;—
Thy dimpling cheek and deep blue eye,
Where tender thought and feeling lie;—
Thine eye-lid like the evening cloud
That comes the star of love to shroud;—
Each witchery of soul and sense,—
Enshrined in Angel innocence,—
Combined to frame the fatal spell
That blest—and broke my heart—FAREWELL.

FROM THE ARABIC.

Oh! ask me not—oh! task me not
Her monument to see,
For doubly blest is there the rest,
Which never comes to me.
Oh! say not so—you may not so
All powerful Love inhuman;
For in your breast, while life's a guest,
The heart's her real tomb.